

GREAT FALLS WATER RIGHTS

The Government Is Preparing to Take Possession of All.

AN OLD PLAN MEETS FAVOR

Chairman Babcock Reports That the Cost Would Be Less Than Claims Now Made and Electric Light and Power and Escape From Smoke Would Be Added Free.

Chairman Babcock reported, with favorable recommendation from the District Committee yesterday, H. R. 10153, providing for the acquisition by the government of all the water rights at Great Falls.

The report says the present maximum supply of 75,000,000 gallons of water a day will be insufficient for domestic purposes and a further diversion of the stream into the reservoir will be necessary. Ultimately, according to Col. Elliott's reckoning, 200,000,000 gallons will be required.

From records kept since 1886 it is calculated that an effective force of 8,500 horse power can be secured by means of turbine wheels from the flow at the falls at the lowest stage. This power can be readily transmitted to Washington.

It is believed to be desirable for the government to secure at once this power, and a sufficient supply of water for the District. The surplus power can be used for lighting government buildings and the streets, to run elevators, printing presses and other machinery in the department and at the navy yard.

A careful estimate has been made by the government engineers of the cost of putting up a plant sufficient to utilize the power at the Great Falls, and light the public buildings, the streets of the District and furnish power for the government buildings. These estimates, together with the estimate for maintenance, show that the light and power can be furnished by using the surplus water at the Great Falls, at much less than can be done by the use of steam power, and a much more desirable result obtained. The use of electricity for power purposes will also dispose of the smoke caused by the increased use of coal, already a subject of complaint, and threatening injury to the beauty of public buildings and works of art in the District.

Already claims are before the Court of Claims for the government's use of water rights at the falls amounting to \$3,000. These claims are based on the theory that the permanent diversion of the water above the falls reduces the available water power at the falls and injures private property rights there.

It is believed that all the water rights and land necessary can be condemned for a sum much less than that already asked for, as given above. By taking the whole at this time by condemnation litigation will be avoided and ownership established for all time. The improvements outlined can be made when it shall be deemed best. The bill presented does not provide any appropriation of money, but for immediate condemnation, the amount to be taken to be ascertained within three months by the Secretary of War and Attorney General. The bill also provides for the ascertainment of the value of these water rights and lands, together with the settlement of all existing claims, by the Secretary of War and Attorney General, these officers being given the power to appoint three disinterested persons to ascertain and advise them in reference to the values. If the Secretary and Attorney General cannot agree with the owners, then the Attorney General shall, within six months, bring suit in the supreme court of the District of Columbia, and have the value ascertained by the court. The Commissioners' letter, urging the passage of the bill, accompanies the report.

POISONED BY HER SON.

A Thirteen-Year-Old Lad Wanted Revenge on His Mother.

Philadelphia, Feb. 3.—Actuated by a spirit of revenge, Howard Bailey, a lad of thirteen years, came near ending his mother's life yesterday. The facts of the case came to light today, when Mrs. Bailey had sufficiently recovered to appear before Magistrate Nease, before whom the boy was arraigned.

On Monday Howard was chastised by his mother for misconduct, and yesterday morning he placed a quantity of sulphuric acid in the coffee. Mrs. Bailey partook of the coffee and was made violently ill. A physician, after several hours' work, saved her life.

The boy was arrested and admitted his guilt. He was held for court. The father ate his breakfast before the poison had been placed in the coffee, and he thus escaped.

RIGHTS OF SURETY COMPANIES.

Lawyer Bradley Wants the Probate Court to Define Them.

Attorney Andrew Y. Bradley yesterday filed a petition in the office of the register of wills in which the probate court is called upon to define the right of a surety company on an administrator's or executor's bonds to demand joint control of the assets.

The question involved is whether or not an administrator can subrogate his duties to the control of a surety company which has gone his bond. In many cases the business of going bond for guardians and other trust officers is largely controlled by security and trust associations.

Sometime ago Mr. Bradley was appointed administrator of the estate of Joseph Sullivan and he furnished bond through the Lawyers' Surety Company of New York. He now asks the court to cancel the security offered and give him leave to furnish another bond.

At that time no other consideration was mentioned. He received the bond several days later and was requested to sign a paper purporting to be an agreement in which the Lawyers' Company would have joint control of the estate. Mr. Bradley demurred to this, on the ground that to sign such a contract would be a violation of his duty as administrator and make him liable to removal. Mr. Reside claimed that the security company would require all checks against the estate to be countersigned by a representative of their concern.

TILLMAN'S LIQUOR BILL.

An Important Amendment Added and a Favorable Report Ordered.

Senator Tillman's bill to meet the Supreme Court decision on the South Carolina liquor law, was amended yesterday in committee and ordered reported to the Senate. This bill gives the State police power in inspecting all liquors (intoxicating) or liquors imported into a State, as if they had been produced in such State, and requires that they shall not be exempt by reason of being introduced into a State in original or other packages for private use or otherwise.

One of the more important amendments agreed to gives a State control of such liquors as this is handled by the State police and requires that they shall not be exempt by reason of being introduced into a State in original or other packages for private use or otherwise.

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The bill also provides for the ascertainment of the value of these water rights and lands, together with the settlement of all existing claims, by the Secretary of War and Attorney General, these officers being given the power to appoint three disinterested persons to ascertain and advise them in reference to the values. If the Secretary and Attorney General cannot agree with the owners, then the Attorney General shall, within six months, bring suit in the supreme court of the District of Columbia, and have the value ascertained by the court.

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MRS. LOUNT WAS WRATHY

The Widow Wanted to See a Reporter Cowhided.

HE HAD DISPLEASED HER

She Appeared at Police Headquarters, Where She Was Placed Under Arrest—Her Mental Condition to Be Inquired Into—She Intended to Make Her Debut in Congress.

Mrs. Virginia N. Lount, the picturesque widow, whose numerous escapades have been described from time to time in these columns, is locked up at Lieut. Kelly's police station. She was arrested about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the central detective office, where she went, so she claims, to superintend the crowding of a reporter for an afternoon newspaper, who wrote an article which did not please her.

Mrs. Lount says she was accompanied by a male friend, who was to lay on the whip while she did the hurrah act.

She entered Inspector Hollenberg's office and made known her errand. The inspector knew that the widow had served nearly eight months in the government insane asylum, and he was not about to let a person so notorious be at large, he directed Detective Lacey to place her under arrest.

She was detained until the Sixth precinct patrol wagon arrived and was taken to the station and placed in charge of the matron.

She gave her name as Mrs. Robert B. Lines, forty-one years of age, and the charge of insanity was entered opposite her name on the blotter. Mrs. Lount was attired in a neat fitting tailor-made costume of black, and wore an up-to-date jewelry, including a "Princess Chignon" hat.

After being placed in a witness room the widow was called upon by Police Surgeon J. Ramsey Nevitt, to whom she recounted her experiences in New York during the Presidential campaign. Her different roles in the drama of life were enumerated as "The Modern Fortin," "Female Coxey," "Uncle Sam's Baby," "McKinley's Widow," and her latest, "Queen of the Populists."

Mrs. Lount demanded that a jury trial be granted her to decide the question of her sanity.

"I want to 'cuss' and discuss the matter in all its phases," she declared, "and I will have some of my Senator chums present to testify in my behalf."

The prisoner said she purchased seven pairs of tan shoes yesterday and had the bill sent to a Senator, who will pay it. She also said while in New York she wore a fancy costume as "Uncle Sam's Baby" and rode around and around on the stage of Koster & Bial's theater and made much cheer.

It was Mrs. Lount's intention, she said, to have arrested her, and she had been arrested by her agent, "Queen of the Populists" and demand a big appropriation for the poor of Washington. She was to have been preceded by her agent, in the costume of "Uncle Sam."

"In this wicked age," said the widow as a parting shot, "I have some of intelligence and wit which sparkles like champagne is too often construed as insanity."

Mrs. Lount will have a preliminary examination by the police surgeons at No. 6 today.

A Pittsburgh Smash-Up.

Messrs. Wilson & Davis, the well-known leading clothing and men's furnishing of Pittsburgh, Pa., have succumbed to the explosion of a bomb which exploded in the rear of their store yesterday afternoon.

The explosion occurred at about 4 o'clock, and the store was completely wrecked. The damage was estimated at \$300,000. The store was insured for \$500,000.

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SCALPERS' TICKETS.

Some Amendments Agreed to in Committee Affecting Railways.

Amendments intended to polarize the anti-scalping bill were agreed to by the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce yesterday. As amended and as the bill will probably soon be reported to the Senate the railroad companies will be required within thirty days after the law goes into effect to redeem all legal tickets offered for sale by the whole ticket.

This is done to protect those brokers who have secured tickets by private arrangement with any railroad company.

The bill will also be amended so as to require the companies to redeem not only the issued portion of any tickets in the hands of the public but the whole ticket if it should not be used. It is believed the bill will be reported at the next meeting of the committee.

Real Estate Transfers.

Frances Avery to Walter R. Wilcox, part of original lot 3, square 59, \$1.

Sarah F. Baldwin to Edward Welch, lots 30 and 31, square 37, in Sweeney's sub, \$10.

Ferdinand M. Brown, trustee, to Thomas Culhane, part of lot 7, square 717, in Berry et al sub, \$1,300.

John D. Crockett and William A. Croft, trustees, to Wesley Robinson, lots 7 and 8, block 24, lots 14 to 18, block 40, East Washington Park, \$1,000.

Alexander Davis et al to Henry Tillman, south fifteen feet of lot 1, square 1061, \$200.

Mary E. S. Davis to Sidney A. Sixbury and George W. Pickett, lots 27 and 28, block 49, East Washington Park, \$10.

Mary E. S. Davis to Sidney A. Sixbury, lots 13 to 16, lot 17 to 24, block 43, lot 17, block 48, lots 11 to 14, 16, 17, block 51, East Washington Park, \$10.

Hugh B. Ewing et al to Frederick C. Linger, part of lot 11, Nonesuch, to correct liber 912, folio 314, \$10.

John F. Giddings et al to Horace K. Fulton, part of lot 7, square 780, in Sweeney's sub, \$10, subject to trust for \$2,200.

John McCarthy et al to Thomas R. Fewkes, part of lot 3, square 1280, \$1,500.

Rosa H. Nourse et al to William B. Rosenthal, north 6.25 feet of lot 22 and south 12 feet of lot 21, square 895, \$10.

Susan M. Webb et al to Annie E. Clark, lot A in Pollard's sub of square 573, \$10.

Clarence B. Eheim and William H. Barstow, trustees, to Francis Sall, original lot 18, square 992, \$1,180.

John S. Webb et al to Joseph J. Darlington, trustees, to Samuel Polkinton, lot A, in Pollard's sub of square 573, \$10,950.

It is becoming more evident every day that the health of the most important and delicate organs of the body. If a man is weak and nervous, he cannot be cheerful and amiable, he cannot be a father, a husband, or a friend.

It is the thing that makes all other things good, and yet out of five women are sick and weak and make no real effort to get well. Everyone of them can be well, if she will go to the "Coin's Financial School."

The country will be very much disappointed if Mr. Gage does not develop into a bumptious, egotistic, self-complacent and ineffectual office freak of the Mortimer variety, long before Mr. McKinley's term of office shall have expired. For it is safe to say that there is not a fad, or an ism, or a reform, or a party policy of any description, or a financial scheme of any variety, that he has not at some time advocated within the last fifteen years.

His opinions upon any and all subjects are of the lightning change variety, and it will be impossible for Mr. McKinley to suggest any view upon any question which Mr. Gage will not be found ready to advocate; that he will always, at all times and under all circumstances, be a bankers' secret.

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FAGUE HAD MONEY TROUBLE

His Suicide Attributed to Them by His Friends.

He Told One of Them He Would Take His Life Unless He Could Get Funds.

No definite arrangements have yet been made for the funeral of Gilman M. Fague, who committed suicide yesterday morning, at his home, No. 2138 K street north-west, by shooting himself through the brain, as told in The Evening Times. Mr. Fague was a prominent Mason and a member of a large number of benevolent organizations, but considering the tragic circumstances of his death, the family will doubtless decide that the funeral and interment shall be private.

No time has been finally set for the services, but they will probably occur at 2 o'clock, on Friday, from his late home, Mr. Fague was a brother in B. B. French Lodge, and it is, after all, thought best to have a public funeral and Masonic burial, that body will officiate.

It now appears quite clear that Mr. Fague ended his life because of financial difficulties. An examination yesterday of the books of Robertson, Blackford, & Fague, of which firm the suicide was a junior member, failed, it is said, to reveal any discrepancy in the accounts, which might have caused him to make away with himself. His business affairs are said to be in proper shape, but he was, nevertheless, sorely pressed for funds. He had always been used to living high, dressing well, and moving in circles which required the expenditure of considerable money. He was always known as a jolly, good fellow, and was one of the best known clubmen in Washington. Of late numerous reverses compelled him to withdraw from a number of his clubs, and to curtail his expenses and social functions.

This was a great humiliation to a man of his character and standing, and coupled with this, it is said, a number of his creditors, to whom he owed small bills, had been pressing him of late, and his inability to meet their demands worried him.

A friend of the family stated that the Times last night that Mr. Fague had made several fruitless attempts to borrow \$100 on Monday, and, to at least, one person, said that if he was unable to procure it before night, he would kill himself. This was taken, however, as a joke, as he did not seem particularly depressed. Mr. Fague carried a good-sized life insurance policy, which will accrue to his wife, but the extent is not known.

The new Secretary of the Treasury Takes Himself Too Seriously.

To the Editor of The Times:

It is becoming more evident every day that the health of the most important and delicate organs of the body. If a man is weak and nervous, he cannot be cheerful and amiable, he cannot be a father, a husband, or a friend.

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